

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 27832 222047Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSIN NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, GE, UK, FR

SUBJECT: GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS: NEXT ROUND WITH
FRENCH

REF: BERLIN 6476

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
PLAISANT SAYS THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN FRENCH POSITION
ON NATIONALITY QUESTION IN UPCOMING ROUND FRENCH-GDR
CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS IN BERLIN (REFTEL) WHERE HE EXPECTS
PRESENT DEADLOCK ON NATIONALITY TO CONTINUE.

2. ASKED WHAT FRENCH WOULD DO IF GDR SHOULD PUT FORWARD
FORMULA APPROXIMATING THAT DISCUSSED BETWEEN SAUVAGNAR-
GUES AND FISCHER IN PARIS LAST SPRING, PLAISANT SAID
MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF PRECISE
TEXT. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT, IN SUCH HYPOTHETICAL
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PAGE 02 PARIS 27832 222047Z

CASE, GOF WOULD NOT MAKE SNAP DECISIONS DURING UPCOMING

ROUND; AND THAT THERE WOULD, THEREFORE, BE TIME TO EXCHANGE THOUGHTS ON QUESTION.

3. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, PLAISANT STRESSED, FRENCH DO NOT EXPECT SUCH GDR MOVE AT UPCOMING ROUND, SINCE GDR "SEEMS TO BE ADJUSTING" TO THE IDEA THAT IT WILL TAKE TIME TO GET WEST TO ACCEPT MAJOR NEW STEP IMPLICIT IN NATIONALITY ISSUE. MOREOVER, QUAI HAD IMPRESSION THAT GDR EMBASSY IN PARIS HAS INCREASINGLY FOCUSSED ON DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH THE FRECH LEFT, PRESUMABLY ON ASSUMPTION THAT GDR MIGHT, IN 18 MONTHS, BE ABLE TO GET FOR THE ASKING WHAT GOF WAS NOT WILLING TO GRANT NOW. QUAI THEREFORE EXPECTS GDR WOULD NOT MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS ON NATIONALITY ISSUE IN UPCOMING ROUND.

4. AS TO OTHER ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE DURING UPCOMING CONSULAR ROUND, PLAISANT SAID GDR WAS PRESSING FOR CERTAIN REFERENCES TO HELSINKI FINAL ACT, PRESUMABLY TO INCREASE STATISTICAL COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR BELGRADE. FRENCH WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST SUCH SELECTIVE REFERENCES, EXCEPT PERHAPS IN "SPECIAL CASES" SUCH AS REFERENCE TO JOURNALISTS.

5. ANOTHER ISSUE INVOLVES PROVISIONS FOR CONSULAR IMMUNITIES AND PREIVLEGES. QUAI LEGAL EXPERTS HAD JUST TAKEN CLOSE LOOK AT PROVISIONS REGARDING IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES WHICH GDR HAD OBTAINED FROM THE UK AND ACCORDING TO PLAISANT WERE "HORRIFIED." HE DID NOT ELABORATE, BUT SUGGESTED WE TOO MIGHT WANT TO STUDY UK TEXT FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE. FRENCH DID NOT INTEND TO BE AS LIBERAL.

6. AS FOR OTHER ASPECTS FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS, PLAISANT SAID GDR HAD RECENTLY SHOWN INTEREST IN A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT, BUT THAT FRENCH CONSIDER THIS IDEA PREMATURE. TECHNICAL TALDS ARE, HOWEVER, CONTINUING ON CERTAIN INDEMNITIES.

7. TIME PERMITTED ONLY BRIEFEST DISCUSSION FRANCO-GDR ECONOMIC RELATIONS. PLAISANT VOLUNTEERED THAT GDR CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 27832 222047Z

ECONOMY WAS UNDER INCREASINGLY EVIDENT STRAIN PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF RISING CEMA ENERGY COSTS. AS A RESULT GDR WAS IN NEED OF CREDITS AND ITS ABILITY TO IMPORT WAS MORE RESTRAINED. THIS MAY BE ONE OF REASONS FOR CERTAIN MODERATION ON FRONTIER MATTERS WHICH GDR SEEMS TO BE DISPLAYING. PLAISANT CONCLUDED THAT THESE TRENDS HAVE ALSO LESSENED FRENCH INCENTIVE TO WORK TOWARD MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENTS OF TRADE RELATIONS WITH GDR.

8. COMMENT: QUAI SOUNDS ENTIRELY CONVINCING AS TO FIRMNESS ITS POSITION ON NATIONALITY ISSUE. FRENCH PERFORMANCE WILL, NEVERTHELESS, CONTINUE TO BEAR WATCHING, SINCE POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE BASED ON FORMULA FLOATED IN SAUVAGNARGUES-FISCHER TALK LAST SPRING CANNOT BE WHOLLY EXCLUDED. EVEN SO, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE QUAI WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT IF SUCH DEAL WERE TO ENTER REALM OF POSSIBILITY WHICH FOR NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY.
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